dispensed with for sanction of credit limit by NABARD to the well performing scheduled state cooperative banks w.e.f. 1-4-97.

(iii) NABARD w.e.f., June 2,1997 has decided to reduce the rate of interest by 1 per cent forfinancing the cooperative banks for xefinancing for various purposes.

(iv) Handloom concentrated dis-stricts have been identified and requested the NABARD for formulating credit plans for the benefit of the weavers in these concentrated areas.

(v) The credit flow to handloom sector has gone up from Rs. 530 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 759 crores in 96-97. In respect of Guj-rat as per the information furnished by NABARD, the credit flow was Rs. 52 lakhs in 1995-96 and Rs. 62.45 loans m 1996-97.

(vi) It has been proposed to the Ministry of Finance to extend the concessional refinance credit from NABARD to the State Handloom Development Corporations also so as to increase coverage.

Dedaring Delhi-Haridwar Road as National Highway

*304. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision for declaring Delhi-Haridwsfr Road Via Meernt a Na-tional Highway and extending the Same upto Badrinath;

(b) whether Similar decision was also taken for declaring Haridwar-Uttarlcashi road as National Highway;

(e) whether Government are aware og the fact that there *ate* many Hindu religious places on both routes and the people visit to the Holy Shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Uttarkashi etc. every year in large number;

(d) whether keeping the abov-a facts in view Government have imp lemented the above decision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VEN-KATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The declaration of any State Road as National Highway depends upon several factors specified in the criteria for this purpose which, inter-alia, includes high den-sity of traffic over adequate length, overall availability of funds and not merely connacting specific tourist/ religious places.

Migration of people from Nepal

*305. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI PATNAIK: Will the HOME Minister of AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemmet are aware of the large scale migration of people from Nepal to India;

(b) whether a large number of them crossing border into India are AIDS patients;

(c) whether several other divisi-ble forces are also infiltrating into the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to curb such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) atd (b) Under the Indo-Nepal Treaty of ~ peace and